

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in small group Bible study and home devotions, and personal use.

Warm Up

When you see “John 3:16” at a game or on a sign, what do you usually think or feel?

Review

Read John 3:14-17 and review the sermon outline on the back of the worship folder. What stood out to you from the sermon?

Like the snake

Read Numbers 21:4-9. Just like the Israelites looked at the bronze snake in faith and lived, so salvation comes from looking at Jesus and trusting God’s promise. Why is trusting a promise sometimes harder than trying to earn something ourselves?

What if?

What if John 3:16 read “For God did not love the world, so Jesus never came, and there is no salvation unless a person lives a perfect life and gets it all right”? How would your view of God, yourself, and your future change if salvation depended on your performance instead of God’s love?

No Condemnation

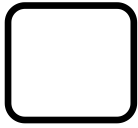
John 3:17 says Jesus did not come to condemn the world. Why do you think many people still assume Christianity is mostly about condemnation? How can our lives reflect Christ’s saving purpose instead?

Not using John 3:16

Besides John 3:16, what are your favorite Bible verses? How can you use them to share your faith in Jesus?

Loving because God first loved

Who in your everyday life might need to tangibly experience Christ-like love from you this week- and what would that actually look like in action?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

What if God didn't love the world?

John 3:14-17

The most famous Bible verse...

1. The Snake that was lifted up
 - Complaining, snake bites, a bronze snake, and life
 - What's the comparison?
2. What it actually says
 - Love involves knowledge, action, & a choice
 - That perfectly fits God.
3. What happens if God did not love the world?
 - Then you're on your own
 - Romans 6:23a is it.
 - What if John 3:16 said "For God did not love the world, so Jesus never came, and there is no salvation unless a person lives a perfect life and gets it all right"?
4. But God did love the world.
 - Jesus took the wrath.
 - Does the Bible speak to you?
 - God loved the world.
5. So ...
 - Love God back.
 - Love each other.

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:14-17

Next Step:

Tomorrow, look and notice other people as you go about your life – people you don't even know their name. Look for someone that needs to be shown love. Say something. Do something to brighten their day. Show the kind of love to them that Jesus has shown you.